

CA1

XC 44

-M24

CA1

XC 44

-M24

COMM

-Meet

ptembe

ber 2,

ber 3, 1995

ber 5, 1995

ber 17, 1995

: Marlene Cowling

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

Fascicule n° 1—Séances n°s 1 à 6

Le jeudi 28 septembre 1995

Le lundi 2 octobre 1995

Le mardi 3 octobre 1995

Le jeudi 5 octobre 1995

Le mardi 17 octobre 1995

Présidente: Marlene Cowling

Proceedings of the Sub-Committee on the

Consideration of the Objections filed on the Proposed electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces

Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs

Procès-verbaux du Sous-comité chargé de l'

Étude des oppositions déposées au sujet des propositions de déli- mitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les Provinces de l'Ouest

du Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la
Chambre

G:

Chair and Future Business

Reference from the Committee of Tuesday,
September 19, 1995, Tuesday, September 26, 1995 and
September 3, 1995, on the Objections filed on the
Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces

the Committee

CONCERNANT:

Élection du président et travaux futurs

Ordres de renvoi du Comité du mardi 19 septembre 1995, du
mardi 26 septembre 1995 et du mardi 3 octobre 1995, sur les
oppositions déposées au sujet des propositions de
délimitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les
provinces de l'Ouest

Y COMPRIS:

Le rapport au Comité

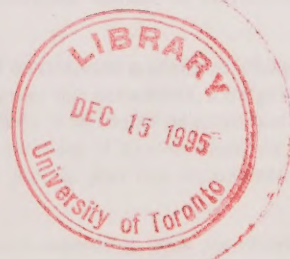
document)

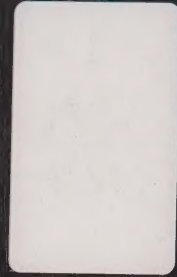
TÉMOINS:

(Voir fin du document)

the Thirty-fifth Parliament, 1994-95

Première session de la trente-cinquième législature, 1994-1995





HOUSE OF COMMONS

Issue No. 1—Meetings Nos. 1 to 6

Thursday, September 28, 1995

Monday, October 2, 1995

Tuesday, October 3, 1995

Thursday, October 5, 1995

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Chairperson: Marlene Cowling

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

Fascicule n° 1—Séances n°s 1 à 6

Le jeudi 28 septembre 1995

Le lundi 2 octobre 1995

Le mardi 3 octobre 1995

Le jeudi 5 octobre 1995

Le mardi 17 octobre 1995

Présidente: Marlene Cowling

Minutes of Proceedings of the Sub-Committee on the

Consideration of the objections filed on the proposed electoral boundaries for the Western Provinces

of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs

Procès-verbaux du Sous-comité chargé de l'

Étude des oppositions déposées au sujet des propositions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les Provinces de l'Ouest

du Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre

RESPECTING:

Election of Chair and Future Business

Orders of Reference from the Committee of Tuesday, September 19, 1995, Tuesday, September 26, 1995 and Tuesday, October 3, 1995, on the Objections filed on the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces

INCLUDING:

The Report to the Committee

CONCERNANT:

Élection du président et travaux futurs

Ordres de renvoi du Comité du mardi 19 septembre 1995, du mardi 26 septembre 1995 et du mardi 3 octobre 1995, sur les oppositions déposées au sujet des propositions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les provinces de l'Ouest

Y COMPRIS:

Le rapport au Comité

WITNESSES:

(See end of document)

TÉMOINS:

(Voir fin du document)



SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE CONSIDERATION OF THE
OBJECTIONS FILED ON THE PROPOSED ELECTORAL
BOUNDARIES FOR THE WESTERN PROVINCES OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE AND HOUSE
AFFAIRS

Chairperson: Marlene Cowling

Members

Ronald Duhamel
Dick Harris
John Solomon

Research Officer:

Laura Snowball
Library of Parliament

(Quorum 3)

Christine Fisher

Clerk of the Sub-Committee

SOUS-COMITÉ CHARGÉ DE L'ÉTUDE DES OPPOSITIONS
DÉPOSÉES AU SUJET DES PROPOSITIONS DE
DÉLIMITATION DES CIRCONSCRIPTIONS ÉLECTORALES
POUR LES PROVINCES DE L'OUEST DU COMITÉ
PERMANENT DE LA PROCÉDURE ET DES AFFAIRES DE LA
CHAMBRE

Présidente: Marlene Cowling

Membres

Ronald Duhamel
Dick Harris
John Solomon

Attachée de recherche:

Laura Snowball
Bibliothèque du Parlement

(Quorum 3)

La greffière du Sous-comité

Christine Fisher

ORDERS OF REFERENCE

Extracts from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs:

Tuesday, September 19, 1995 (Meeting No. 85)

After debate, on motion of Don Boudria, it was agreed, — That four Sub-Committees be struck to consider the objections filed for Ontario, Québec, Western Canada (B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) and for Eastern Canada (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland);

— That each Sub-Committee be empowered, except when the Committee otherwise orders, to send for persons, papers and records, to sit while the House is sitting, to sit during periods when the House stands adjourned, to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by the Sub-Committee;

— That the Whips from the three parties appoint three members to each Sub-Committee;

and,

— That the Sub-Committees report to the Committee no later than October 16, 1995.

ATTEST

Tuesday, September 26, 1995 (Meeting No. 87)

By unanimous consent, the Committee reverted to the consideration of the motion adopted on September 19, 1995 which reads as follows:

— That four Sub-Committees be struck to consider the objections filed for Ontario, Québec, Western Canada (B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) and for Eastern Canada (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland);

— That each Sub-Committee be empowered, except when the Committee otherwise orders, to send for persons, papers and records, to sit while the House is sitting, to sit during periods where the House stands adjourned, to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by the Sub-Committee;

— That the Whips from the three parties appoint three members to each Sub-Committee;

and,

— That the Sub-Committee report to the Committee no later than October 16, 1995.

ORDRES DE RENVOI

Extraits des procès-verbaux du Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre:

Le mardi 19 septembre 1995 (Séance n° 85)

Après débat, sur la motion de Don Boudria, il est convenu — Que quatre sous-comités soient institués pour étudier les oppositions déposées pour l'Ontario, le Québec, l'ouest du Canada (C.-B., Alberta, Saskatchewan et Manitoba) et l'est du Canada (Nouveau-Brunswick, Nouvelle-Écosse et Terre-Neuve);

— Que, sauf lorsque le Comité en ordonne autrement, chaque sous-comité soit habilité à convoquer des personnes, à exiger la production de documents et dossiers, à se réunir pendant que la Chambre siège et pendant les périodes d'ajournement de la Chambre et à faire imprimer au jour le jour les documents et témoignages dont ils peuvent ordonner l'impression;

— Que les whips des trois partis nomment trois membres à chacun de ces sous-comités;

et

— Que les sous-comités fassent rapport au Comité au plus tard le 16 octobre 1995.

ATTESTÉ

Le mardi 26 septembre 1995 (Séance n° 87)

Du consentement unanime, le Comité revient à l'étude de la motion adoptée le 19 septembre 1995, qui est ainsi libellée:

— Que quatre sous-comités soient institués pour étudier les oppositions déposées pour l'Ontario, le Québec, l'ouest du Canada (C.-B., Alberta, Saskatchewan et Manitoba) et l'est du Canada (Nouveau-Brunswick, Nouvelle-Écosse et Terre-Neuve);

— Que, sauf lorsque le Comité en ordonne autrement, chaque sous-comité soit habilité à convoquer des personnes, à exiger la production de documents et dossiers, à se réunir pendant que la Chambre siège et pendant les périodes d'ajournement de la Chambre et à faire imprimer au jour le jour les documents et témoignages;

— Que les whips des trois partis nomment trois membres à chacun de ces sous-comités;

et

— Que les sous-comités fassent rapport au Comité au plus tard le 16 octobre 1995.

It was agreed, — That the motion be amended by striking out in paragraph 3, the words “three members” and substituting the following:

“four members”.

And the question being put on the amendment, it was agreed to.

The motion, as amended, carried.

ATTEST

Tuesday, October 3, 1995 (Meeting No. 88)

After debate, it was agreed, — That notwithstanding the Committee's decision of Tuesday, September 26, 1995, the deadline for the reports of the Sub-Committees' for Ontario, Québec, the Western and Eastern Provinces be extended to Monday, October 23, 1995.

On motion of Bob Ringma, it was agreed, — That in accordance with Section 22 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, the Committee request from the House of Commons an extension for its consideration of the objections filed on the proposed electoral boundaries to November 30th, 1995 and That the Chairman be instructed to present a report to the House.

ATTEST

Il est convenu — Que l'on modifie la motion en remplaçant les mots «trois membres» par ce qui suit:

«quatre membres».

L'amendement, mis aux voix, est adopté.

La motion modifiée est adoptée.

ATTESTÉ

Le mardi 3 octobre 1995 (Séance n° 88)

Après débat, il est convenu — Que, nonobstant la décision que le Comité a prise le mardi 26 septembre 1995, l'échéancier des rapports des sous-comités pour l'Ontario, le Québec, les provinces de l'Ouest et les provinces de l'Est, soit repoussé au lundi 23 octobre 1995.

Sur la motion de Bob Ringma, il est convenu — Que, conformément à l'article 22 de la Loi sur la révision des limites des circonscriptions électorales, le Comité demande à la Chambre des communes l'autorisation de prolonger au 30 novembre 1995 son étude des oppositions déposées contre les propositions de limites de circonscriptions électorales et qu'ordre soit donné au président de présenter un rapport à la Chambre.

ATTESTÉ

La greffière du Comité

MARIE CARRIÈRE

Clerk of the Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1995
(Meeting No. 1)

[Text]

The Sub-Committee on the consideration of the Objections filed on the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs met at 3:35 o'clock p.m. this day, in Room 208, West Block, for the purpose of electing a Chair.

Members of the Sub-Committee present: Marlene Cowling, Ronald Duhamel.

Acting Member present: Ted White for Dick Harris.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Laura Snowball, Research Officer.

The Clerk presided over the election of a Chair.

On motion of Ronald Duhamel, it was agreed, — That Marlene Cowling be elected Chair of this Sub-Committee.

Accordingly, Marlene Cowling took the Chair.

Pursuant to the Orders of References of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs adopted on Tuesday, September 19, 1995 and Tuesday, September 26, 1995, the Sub-Committee proceeded to the consideration of its future business.

It was agreed, — That the Sub-Committee extend an invitation to appear to the Members who filed an objection, allowing 15 minutes to each Member.

It was agreed, — That the Sub-Committee meet in accordance with the following schedule; on Monday, October 2, 1995 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, October 3, 1995 from 9:00 a.m. to noon and at a further meeting for consideration of a draft report.

At 3:55 o'clock p.m., the Sub-Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

PROCÈS-VERBAL

LE JEUDI 28 SEPTEMBRE 1995
(Séance n° 1)

[Traduction]

Le Sous-comité chargé de l'étude des oppositions déposées au sujet des propositions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les provinces de l'Ouest, du Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre, se réunit à 15 h 35, dans la salle 208 de l'édifice de l'Ouest, pour élire un président.

Membres du Sous-comité présents: Marlene Cowling, Ronald Duhamel.

Membre suppléant présent: Ted White pour Dick Harris.

Aussi présente: Du Service de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement: Laura Snowball, attachée de recherche.

La greffière procède à l'élection d'un président.

Sur la motion de Ronald Duhamel, il est convenu — Que Marlene Cowling soit élue présidente du Sous-Comité.

En conséquence, Marlene Cowling prend place au fauteuil.

Conformément aux ordres de renvoi que le Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre a adoptés le mardi 19 septembre 1995 et le mardi 26 septembre 1995, le Sous-comité étudie ses travaux à venir.

Il est convenu — Que le Sous-comité invite à comparaître les députés qui ont déposé une objection et qu'il leur accorde chacun 15 minutes d'allocation.

Il est convenu — Que le Sous-comité se réunisse selon le calendrier suivant: le lundi 2 octobre 1995, de 15 h 30 à 17 heures, le mardi 3 octobre 1995, de 9 heures à midi, et qu'il tienne une autre réunion pour étudier une ébauche de rapport.

À 15 h 55, la séance est levée jusqu'à nouvelle convocation de la présidente.

LE LUNDI 2 OCTOBRE 1995
(Séance n° 2)

Le Sous-comité chargé de l'étude des oppositions déposées au sujet des propositions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les provinces de l'Ouest, du Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre, se réunit à 15 h 23, dans la salle 307 de l'édifice de l'Ouest, sous la présidence de Marlene Cowling (*présidente*).

Membres du Sous-comité présents: Marlene Cowling, John Solomon.

Membres suppléants présents: Raymond Bonin pour Ronald Duhamel; Randy White pour Dick Harris; Glen McKinnon pour Marlene Cowling.

Aussi présente: Du Service de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement: Laura Snowball, attachée de recherche.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1995
(Meeting No. 2)

The Sub-Committee on the consideration of the Objections filed on the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs met at 3:23 o'clock p.m. this day, in Room 307, West Block, the Chair, Marlene Cowling, presiding.

Members of the Sub-Committee present: Marlene Cowling, John Solomon.

Acting Members present: Raymond Bonin for Ronald Duhamel, Randy White for Dick Harris; Glen McKinnon for Marlene Cowling.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Laura Snowball, Research Officer.

Witnesses: From the House of Commons: The Honourable Jon Gerrard, P.C., M.P., Portage—Interlake; Ronald Duhamel, M.P., St. Boniface; Marlene Cowling, M.P., Dauphin—Swan River; Bernie Collins, M.P., Souris—Moose Mountain; The Honourable Anne McLellan, P.C., M.P., Edmonton Northwest.

Pursuant to the Orders of Reference of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs of Tuesday, September 19, 1995 and Tuesday, September 26, 1995, the Sub-Committee resumed consideration of the Objections filed on the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces.

The Honourable Jon Gerrard made a statement and answered questions.

Ronald Duhamel made a statement and answered questions.

At 3:51 o'clock p.m. the sitting was suspended.

At 4:07 o'clock p.m. the sitting resumed.

At 4:08 o'clock p.m., Raymond Bonin took the Chair.

Marlene Cowling made a statement and answered questions.

At 4:20 o'clock p.m., Marlene Cowling took the Chair.

Bernie Collins made a statement and answered questions.

At 4:30 o'clock p.m. the sitting was suspended.

At 4:33 o'clock p.m. the sitting resumed.

It was agreed, — That the Sub-Committee meet on Tuesday, October 3, 1995 at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday October 4, 1995 at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of hearing witnesses.

The Honourable Anne McLellan made a statement and answered questions.

On motion of John Solomon, it was agreed, — That the Appendices to the document presented by the Honourable Anne McLellan be filed as an exhibit with the Clerk of the Sub-Committee. (Exhibit "A")

At 5:00 o'clock p.m., the Sub-Committee proceeded to sit *in camera* to discuss future business.

At 5:15 o'clock p.m., the Sub-Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1995
(Meeting No. 3)

The Sub-Committee on the consideration of the Objections filed on the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs met at 9:10 o'clock a.m. this day, in Room 701, La Promenade, the Chair, Marlene Cowling, presiding.

Members of the Sub-Committee present: Marlene Cowling, John Solomon.

Acting Members present: Glen McKinnon for Ronald Duhamel; Randy White for Dick Harris.

Témoins: De la Chambre des communes: L'honorable Jon Gerrard, c.p., député, Portage—Interlake; Ronald Duhamel, député, Saint-Boniface; Marlene Cowling, députée, Dauphin—Swan River; Bernie Collins, député, Souris—Moose Mountain; l'honorable Anne McLellan, c.p., députée, Edmonton—Nord-Ouest.

Conformément aux ordres de renvoi que le Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre a adoptés les mardis 19 septembre et 26 septembre 1995, le Sous-comité reprend l'étude des oppositions déposées contre les limites des circonscriptions électorales proposées pour les provinces de l'Ouest.

L'honorable Jon Gerrard fait une déclaration et répond aux questions.

Ronald Duhamel fait une déclaration et répond aux questions.

À 15 h 51, le Sous-comité suspend ses travaux.

À 16 h 07, le Sous-comité reprend ses travaux.

À 16 h 08, Raymond Bonin prend place au fauteuil.

Marlene Cowling fait une déclaration et répond aux questions.

À 16 h 20, Marlene Cowling prend place au fauteuil.

Bernie Collins fait une déclaration et répond aux questions.

À 16 h 30, le Sous-comité suspend ses travaux.

À 16 h 33, le Sous-comité reprend ses travaux.

Il est convenu — Que le Sous-comité se réunisse pour entendre des témoins le mardi 3 octobre 1995, à 17 h 30, et le mercredi 4 octobre 1995, à 17 h 30.

L'honorable Anne McLellan fait une déclaration et répond aux questions.

Sur la motion de John Solomon, il est convenu — Que les annexes au document présentés par l'honorable Anne McLellan soient déposées à titre de pièces auprès de la greffière. (Pièce «A»)

À 17 heures, le Sous-comité déclare le huis clos pour examiner ses travaux à venir.

À 17 h 15, la séance est levée jusqu'à nouvelle convocation de la présidente.

LE MARDI 3 OCTOBRE 1995
(Séance n° 3)

Le Sous-comité chargé de l'étude des oppositions déposées au sujet des propositions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les provinces de l'Ouest, du Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre, se réunit à 9 h 10 dans la salle 701, La Promenade, sous la présidence de Marlene Cowling (*présidente*).

Membres du Sous-comité présents: Marlene Cowling, John Solomon.

Membres suppléants présents: Glen McKinnon pour Ronald Duhamel; Randy White pour Dick Harris.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Laura Snowball, Research Officer.

Aussi présente: Du Service de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement: Laura Snowball, attachée de recherche.

Witnesses: From the House of Commons: Morris Bodnar, M.P., Saskatoon — Dundurn; Jim Hart, M.P., Okanagan — Similkameen — Merritt; John Cummins, M.P., Delta; Keith Martin, M.P., Esquimalt — Juan de Fuca; David Iftody, M.P., Provencher.

Témoins: De la Chambre des communes: Morris Bodnar, député, Saskatoon — Dunburn; Jim Hart, député, Okanagan — Similkameen — Merritt; John Cummins, député, Delta; Keith Martin, député, Esquimalt — Juan de Fuca; David Iftody, député, Provencher.

Pursuant to the Orders of Reference of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs adopted on Tuesday, September 19, 1995 and Tuesday, September 26, 1995, the Sub-Committee resumed consideration of the objections filed on the proposed electoral boundaries for the Western Provinces. (See *Minutes of Proceedings, Issue No. 1, Meeting No. 1, Thursday, September 28, 1995*)

Conformément aux ordres de renvoi que le Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre a adoptés le mardi 19 septembre 1995 et le mardi 26 septembre 1995, le Sous-comité reprend l'étude des oppositions déposées contre les limites des circonscriptions électorales proposées pour les provinces de l'Ouest. (Voir les *Procès-verbaux du jeudi 28 septembre 1995, fascicule n° 1, séance n° 1*)

Morris Bodnar made a statement and answered questions.

Morris Bodnar fait une déclaration et répond aux questions.

At 9:20 o'clock a.m., the sitting was suspended.

À 9 h 20, le Sous-comité suspend ses travaux.

At 9:28 o'clock a.m., the sitting resumed.

À 9 h 28, le Sous-comité reprend ses travaux.

It was agreed, — That any documents presented by witnesses be filed as Exhibits with the Clerk of the Sub-Committee.

Il est convenu — Que tous les documents présentés par les témoins soient déposés en tant que pièces auprès de la greffière du Sous-comité.

Jim Hart made a statement and answered questions.

Jim Hart fait une déclaration et répond aux questions.

In accordance with the Sub-Committee's decision of today, the documents presented by Jim Hart were filed as an Exhibit. (See Exhibit "B")

Conformément à la décision que le Sous-comité a prise aujourd'hui, les documents présentés par Jim Hart sont déposés à titre de pièces. (Voir pièce «B»)

John Cummins made a statement and answered questions.

John Cummins fait une déclaration et répond aux questions.

In accordance with the Sub-Committee's decision of today, the documents presented by John Cummins were filed as an Exhibit. (See Exhibit "C")

Conformément à la décision que le Sous-comité a prise aujourd'hui, les documents présentés par John Cummins sont déposés à titre de pièces. (Voir pièce «C»)

Keith Martin made a statement and answered questions.

Keith Martin fait une déclaration et répond aux questions.

At 10:10 o'clock a.m., the Sub-Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

À 10 h 10, la séance est levée jusqu'à nouvelle convocation de la présidente.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1995
(Meeting No. 4)

LE MARDI 3 OCTOBRE 1995
(Séance n° 4)

The Sub-Committee on the consideration of the Objections filed on the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs met at 5:45 o'clock p.m. this day, in Room 701, La Promenade, the Chair, Marlene Cowling, presiding.

Le Sous-comité chargé de l'étude des oppositions déposées au sujet des propositions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les provinces de l'Ouest, du Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre, se réunit à 17 h 45, dans la salle 701, La Promenade, sous la présidence de Marlene Cowling (*présidente*).

Members of the Sub-Committee present: Marlene Cowling, John Solomon.

Membres du Sous-comité présents: Marlene Cowling, John Solomon.

Acting Members present: Glen McKinnon for Ronald Duhamel; Randy White for Dick Harris.

Membres suppléants présents: Glen McKinnon pour Ronald Duhamel; Randy White pour Dick Harris.

Other Member present: Bernie Collins.

Autre député présent: Bernie Collins

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Laura Snowball, Research Officer.

Aussi présente: Du Service de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement: Laura Snowball, attachée de recherche.

Witnesses: From the House of Commons: The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P., Regina—Wascana; David Iftody, M.P., Provencher; Georgette Sheridan, M.P., Saskatoon—Humboldt; Svend Robinson, M.P., Burnaby—Kingsway, represented by John Solomon.

Pursuant to the Orders of Reference of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs adopted on Tuesday, September 19, 1995 and Tuesday, September 26, 1995, the Sub-Committee resumed consideration of the objections filed to the proposed electoral boundaries for the Western Provinces. (*See Minutes of Proceedings, Issue No. 1, Meeting No. 1, Thursday, September 28, 1995*)

The witnesses made statements and answered questions.

On behalf of Svend Robinson, John Solomon made a statement and answered questions.

In accordance with the Sub-Committee's decision of Tuesday, October 3, 1995 (Meeting No. 3) the letter from Svend Robinson, presented by John Solomon, was filed as an Exhibit. (See Exhibit "D")

At 6:30 o'clock p.m., the Sub-Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1995
(Meeting No. 5)

The Sub-Committee on the consideration of the Objections filed on the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs met at 8:13 o'clock a.m., this day, in Room 705, La Promenade, the Acting Chair, Glen McKinnon, presiding.

Members of the Sub-Committee present: Marlene Cowling, John Solomon.

Acting Members present: Randy White for Dick Harris; Glen McKinnon for Ronald Duhamel.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Laura Snowball, Research Officer.

Pursuant to the Orders of Reference of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs adopted on Tuesday, September 19, 1995, Tuesday, September 26, 1995 and Wednesday, October 4, 1995, the Sub-Committee resumed consideration of the objections filed on the proposed electoral boundaries for the Western Provinces. (*See Minutes of Proceedings, Issue No. 1, Meeting No. 1, Thursday, September 28, 1995*)

Consideration of a draft report.

At 8:18 o'clock a.m., Marlene Cowling took the Chair.

At 9:10 o'clock a.m., the Sub-Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Témoins: De la Chambre des communes: L'honorable Ralph Goodale, c.p., député, Regina—Wascana; David Iftody, député, Provencher; Georgette Sheridan, députée, Saskatoon—Humboldt; Svend Robinson, député, Burnaby—Kingsway, représenté par John Solomon.

Conformément aux ordres de renvoi que le Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre a adoptés le mardi 19 septembre 1995 et le mardi 26 septembre 1995, le Sous-comité examine les oppositions déposées aux propositions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les provinces de l'Ouest. (*Voir les Procès-verbaux du jeudi 28 septembre 1995, fascicule n° 1, séance n° 1*)

Les témoins font des déclarations et répondent aux questions.

Au nom de Svend Robinson, John Solomon fait une déclaration et répond aux questions.

Conformément à la décision que le Sous-comité a prise le mardi 3 octobre 1995 (Séance n° 3), la lettre de Svend Robinson, présentée par John Solomon, est déposée en tant que pièce (*Voir pièce «D»*).

À 18 h 30, la séance est levée jusqu'à nouvelle convocation de la présidente.

LE JEUDI 5 OCTOBRE 1995
(Séance n° 5)

Le Sous-comité chargé de l'étude des oppositions déposées au sujet des propositions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les provinces de l'Ouest, du Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre, se réunit à 8 h 13, dans la salle 705, La Promenade, sous la présidence de Glen McKinnon (vice-président).

Membres du Sous-comité présents: Marlene Cowling, John Solomon.

Membres suppléants présents: Randy White pour Dick Harris; Glen McKinnon pour Ronald Duhamel.

Aussi présente: Du Service de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement: Laura Snowball, attachée de recherche.

Conformément aux ordres de renvoi que le Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre a adoptés les mardis 19 septembre et 26 septembre 1995, et le mercredi 4 octobre 1995, le Sous-comité reprend l'étude des oppositions déposées contre les limites des circonscriptions électorales proposées pour les provinces de l'Ouest. (*Voir les Procès-verbaux du jeudi 28 septembre 1995, fascicule n° 1, séance n° 1*)

Le Sous-comité étudie une ébauche de rapport.

À 8 h 18, Marlene Cowling prend place au fauteuil.

À 9 h 10, la séance est levée jusqu'à nouvelle convocation de la présidente.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1995

(Meeting No. 6)

The Sub-Committee on the consideration of the Objections filed on the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs met *in camera* at 11:08 o'clock a.m. this day, in Room 306, West Block, the Chair, Marlene Cowling, presiding.

Members of the Sub-Committee present: Marlene Cowling, Dick Harris, John Solomon.

Acting Member present: Glen McKinnon for Ronald Duhamel.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Laura Snowball, Research Officer.

Pursuant to the Orders of Reference of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs adopted on Tuesday, September 19, 1995, Tuesday, September 26, 1995 and Wednesday, October 4, 1995, the Sub-Committee resumed consideration of the objections filed on the proposed electoral boundaries for the Western Provinces. (*See Minutes of Proceedings, Issue No. 1, Meeting No. 1, Thursday, September 28, 1995 and Meeting No. 5, Thursday, October 5, 1995*)

The Sub-Committee resumed consideration of a draft report.

It was agreed,—That the complete file of objections on the proposed electoral boundaries for the Western provinces be filed as an Exhibit with the Clerk of the Sub-Committee. (See Exhibit "E")

It was agreed,—That the draft report on boundaries for the Western provinces, as amended, be adopted as the Sub-Committee's First Report and that the Chair be authorized to make editorial changes as necessary and to present the report to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs.

In accordance with the Sub-Committee's decision of Tuesday, October 3, 1995 (Meeting No. 3), it was agreed,—That the maps presented by Ronald Duhamel on Monday, October 2, 1995, together with the letter from the "Société franco-manitobaine", be filed as an Exhibit with the Clerk of the Sub-Committee. (See Exhibit "F")

At 12:33 o'clock p.m., the Sub-Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Christine Fisher

Clerk of the Sub-Committee

LE MARDI 17 OCTOBRE 1995

(Séance n° 6)

Le Sous-comité chargé de l'étude des oppositions déposées au sujet des propositions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales pour les provinces de l'Ouest, du Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre, tient une séance à huis clos à 11 h 08 dans la salle 306 de l'édifice de l'Ouest, sous la présidence de Marlene Cowling (*présidente*).

Membres du Sous-comité présents: Marlene Cowling, Dick Harris, John Solomon.

Membre suppléant présent: Glen McKinnon pour Ronald Duhamel.

Aussi présente: Du Service de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement: Laura Snowball, attachée de recherche.

Conformément aux ordres de renvoi que le Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre a adoptés le mardi 19 septembre 1995, le mardi 26 septembre 1995 et le mercredi 4 octobre 1995, le Sous-comité reprend l'étude des oppositions déposées contre des limites de circonscriptions électorales proposées pour les provinces de l'Ouest. (*Voir les Procès-verbaux du jeudi 28 septembre 1995, fascicule n° 1, séance n° 1 et du jeudi 5 octobre 1995, séance n° 5*)

Le Sous-comité reprend l'étude d'une ébauche de rapport.

Il est convenu—Que tout le dossier des oppositions aux propositions de limites de circonscriptions électorales pour les provinces de l'Ouest soit déposé à titre de pièce auprès de la greffière du Sous-comité. (Voir pièce «E»)

Il est convenu—Que l'ébauche de rapport sur les limites de circonscriptions électorales pour les provinces de l'Ouest soit adoptée à titre de Premier rapport du Sous-comité, que la présidente soit autorisée à apporter les modifications nécessaires à la rédaction du rapport et qu'elle le présente au Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la Chambre.

Conformément à la décision que le Sous-comité a prise le mardi 3 octobre 1995 (Séance n° 3), il est convenu—Que les cartes présentées par Ronald Duhamel le lundi 2 octobre 1995, ainsi que la lettre de la Société franco-manitobaine, soit déposée en tant que pièce auprès de la greffière du Sous-comité. (Voir pièce «F»).

À 12 h 33, la séance est levée jusqu'à nouvelle convocation de la présidente.

La greffière du Sous-comité

Christine Fisher

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE CONSIDERATION OF THE OBJECTIONS FILED ON THE PROPOSED ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES FOR THE WESTERN PROVINCES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE AND HOUSE AFFAIRS HAS THE HONOUR TO PRESENT ITS

REPORT

Pursuant to Orders of Reference from the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, the Sub-Committee on the Consideration of the Objections Filed on the Proposed Electoral Boundaries for the Western Provinces of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs met on October 2 and 3, 1995 to consider the objections raised by 13 Members of Parliament from Western Canada and agreed to report the following:

I. ALBERTA

The Sub-Committee met to hear the objections and comments of Members of the House of Commons with respect to the 1994 *Report of the Federal Boundaries Commission for the Province of Alberta*, as tabled in the House of Commons on June 22, 1995.

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. Bonin, Mr. McKinnon, and Mr. Solomon, received submissions from the Hon. Anne McLellan, P.C., Minister of Natural Resources, and M.P. for Edmonton Northwest. The Minister filed additional documentation with the Sub-Committee at the time of her submissions.

The Boundaries Commission stated that the provincial electoral quota is 97,906 persons per constituency. The Boundaries Commission proposed a southward extension of the Edmonton West boundary to include an area formerly part of Edmonton Southwest. The communities moved are Crestwood and Jasper Place, and Meadowlark has been divided. The resulting population of the riding, renamed "Edmonton West", is 113,207.

The Minister objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: the proposals failed to respect existing neighbourhood communities of interest and historical patterns, particularly those of the former town of Jasper Place; and the proposals relied on overly-optimistic projections of population growth in Edmonton Southwest as compared to Edmonton West.

It was submitted that the guiding principle of “communities of interest” had not been respected for either of the Crestwood or Jasper Place communities. The Minister noted that the communities of Glenwood, West Jasper Place, and Crestwood have long been in the same federal, provincial, and municipal ridings, that Crestwood shares a community of interest with Parkview and Laurier Heights, and that West Jasper Place/Sherwood shares a community of interest with Sherwood. Parkview, Laurier Heights, and Sherwood have remained in the proposed Edmonton Southwest riding. The natural line for division is further north along the McKinnon Ravine, and Stony Plain Road.

The Minister emphasized the critical importance of “community leagues” as the focus for local organisation in the city of Edmonton and the principal and primary identifying factor for Edmontonians.

The Minister argued that the future population growth of Edmonton West had been underestimated, and that the Boundaries Commission had failed to take into account the high growth areas at the western edge of the riding, and the significant residential regrowth in the east of the riding at the old railyards. It would not be unreasonable to expect that the population for Edmonton West would exceed the 25% variance by the year 2000.

The Minister noted that the M.P. for Edmonton Southwest has been made aware of the proposal to return these communities to that riding.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

The Sub-Committee notes the detail of the submissions made by the Minister in respect of the proposed riding of Edmonton West, and the supporting documentation submitted by the Minister. The Sub-Committee recommends that the long-standing communities of interest in the area of the former town of Jasper Place would be best served if the boundary between the proposed ridings of Edmonton West and Edmonton Southwest were adjusted to reallocate the area bounded by 170th Street, 95th Avenue and the MacKenzie Ravine, the North Saskatchewan River, and the McKinnon Ravine/102 Avenue/Stony Plain Road to the Edmonton Southwest riding.

II. BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Sub-Committee met to hear the objections and comments of Members of the House of Commons with respect to the 1994 *Report of the Federal Boundaries Commission for the Province of British Columbia*, as tabled in the House of Commons on June 22, 1995.

The Boundaries Commission stated that the provincial electoral quota is 96,531 persons per constituency.

The Boundaries Commission proposed the exclusion of the North Delta community, and a small portion of Surrey, from the existing riding of Delta, and the addition of an area from Richmond, also referred to as "Steveston." The resulting population of the riding is 102,116.

The Boundaries Commission proposed that an area including the town of Hope be added to the western portion of the existing Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt riding, and that an area be removed from the eastern edge of the same riding and added to the proposed riding of West Kootenay—Okanagan. The resulting riding of Okanagan—Coquihalla would have a population of 87,911.

The Boundaries Commission proposed the exclusion of certain Cowichan Valley communities from the northern part of the Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca riding, and the addition of an area to the east which had been part of the Saanich—Gulf Islands riding. The resulting riding of Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca would have a population of 98,661.

The Boundaries Commission proposed changes to the existing Burnaby—Kingsway riding which included a change of name to "Burnaby North."

OBJECTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

1. *Mr. John Cummins, M.P.*

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. White, and Mr. McKinnon, received submissions from Mr. John Cummins, M.P. for the present riding of Delta.

Mr. Cummins objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: the existing municipal, provincial, and federal electoral boundaries largely coincide for the Delta area; constituents in the Richmond area added to the riding will feel isolated and left out from the riding; the population growth in Delta will exceed the projections of the Commission; there are few established communication links between Delta and Richmond at a community level; and Richmond's ties are to the north, and not south toward Delta. Mr. Cummins' written objection included letters of support from Fred Gingell, MLA, and Wendy Jeske, Acting Mayor of Delta.

Mr. Cummins emphasized that Delta is essentially an "island community" with boundaries set by inland waterways and the Strait of Georgia. North Delta was the original settlement, and its removal from the riding removes the "heart and soul" of the community. North Delta shares an economic community of interest, attitudes toward the environment, and focus towards the Strait of Georgia, with the Delta communities of Ladner and Tsawwassen. The people of Delta do not do business with the Richmond community. The Fraser River constitutes a significant physical and psychological barrier between Richmond and Delta; the sole land transportation access is a single tunnel which can be nearly impassable at rush hours.

Mr. Cummins noted that much of Delta's territory is protected agricultural land, so that the present riding's population is fairly stable, with increased density only in the urban areas. If the boundaries were left as they are now, Delta would be within 4% of the provincial quota, which would be appropriate in light of the mixed urban-rural nature of the riding. In light of the rapid growth taking place in Surrey, there is no need to add the population of North Delta to that riding.

Mr. Cummins' principal objection was that North Delta must remain part of the Delta riding, but, while retaining North Delta, the riding will accept the addition of the area from South Richmond if necessary.

2. Mr. Jim Hart, M.P.

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. White, and Mr. McKinnon, received submissions from Mr. Jim Hart, M.P. for the present riding of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt. Copies of certain documents received by Mr. Hart were placed on the record.

Mr. Hart objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: they fail to observe the community of interest and identity of the communities of Oliver, Osoyoos, and Midway with the Okanagan; these three communities are geographically separated from the Kootenay area by the mountains; and the addition to the western edge of the existing riding fails to meet the requirement of manageable geographic size for sparsely populated regions.

Mr. Hart emphasized that he had heard from the town councils and met with the citizens in his present riding, and that it was agreed that there was a serious lack of commonality between the south Okanagan and the area from the Fraser valley which has been added. The Okanagan communities presently part of the riding share common community and government services, and Penticton as their focal point. These agricultural communities share common economic and environmental concerns. In contrast, Hope is tied to the Fraser Valley, which has its own distinct concerns, particularly the salmon fisheries. As the communication links in the area run north-south, Hope has no such connections with the Okanagan communities.

Mr. Hart noted that the proposed changes to the boundaries of his riding would not produce any significant change in the total population figure.

3. *Dr. Keith Martin, M.P.*

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. White, and Mr. McKinnon, received submissions from Dr. Keith Martin, M.P. for the present riding of Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca.

Dr. Martin objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: the exclusion of Mill Bay, Cowichan Bay, Shawinigan Station and others communities in the Cowichan Valley Regional District overlooks historical linkages and general southward orientation of these communities; and the new areas included, from the Saanich—Gulf Islands riding, will entail population growth which will overwhelm the Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca riding.

Dr. Martin stressed that as one of the fastest growth areas in Canada, the present riding already includes high growth areas and is growing more rapidly than the adjoining ridings. The Cowichan Valley area excluded has a relatively static population; the additional Saanich territory is high-growth and brings the Juan de Fuca riding beyond the electoral quota for the province. The proposed new riding will easily surpass the electoral quota at the next election. The future demographics of the new riding do not seem to have been fully considered.

Dr. Martin explained that the movement of goods, services, and people in this area has been and continues to be along north-south pathways, so that the Cowichan Valley communities are tied to the Esquimalt riding, while the Saanich ties are toward the City of Victoria. Traffic between the Cowichan Valley and Esquimalt will be increasing because of the expansion of the north-south highway.

In the event that riding boundaries were to be changed, Dr. Martin commented that the interests of democracy would be better served if such changes were made further in advance of

elections than presently is the case. Constituents should have a longer period of contact with the incumbent M.P. before being asked to re-elect that person.

4. *Mr. Svend Robinson, M.P.*

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. Collins, Mr. McKinnon, Mr. White, and Mr. Solomon received the submissions of Mr. Svend Robinson, M.P. for the present riding of Burnaby—Kingsway.

Mr. Robinson objected to the particular name chosen on the grounds that: residents of southern portion of Burnaby, included in the new riding, do not consider themselves part of Burnaby North; there is the potential for confusion with the existing provincial riding also called "Burnaby North"; and Douglas Road is a major thoroughfare in the middle of the riding, and would be reflected in the alternative name of "Burnaby—Douglas."

Mr. Robinson's proposal has the support of the Mayor of Burnaby, and Burnaby City Councillors.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Sub-Committee observes that some areas of British Columbia demonstrated growth patterns which were extreme, and that such a typical growth must be factored in when designating riding boundaries. However, the Sub-Committee is concerned that adjustments on account of these extreme growth areas have been allowed an extended and significant "ripple effect" east and west across the province. In consequence, ridings whose circumstances did not merit any change on their own, or on account of their immediate neighbours, nonetheless were substantially changed. The Sub-Committee is of the opinion that corrections for extreme population increases should be isolated as much as possible within the actual problem areas.

The Sub-Committee found it difficult to make recommendations with respect to the proposed boundaries of individual ridings in the absence of a detailed explanation by the Boundaries Commission of the rationale for the changes. For example, the Sub-Committee heard repeatedly that actual population changes since the 1991 census demonstrate that the proposed new boundaries are inappropriate; however, on the face of the Report, there is no indication whether the Boundaries

Commission took actual population projections into account. While substantial alterations may be necessary for the ridings in high population growth areas, the Sub-Committee was struck by the absence of any explanation why the 25% variance allowed by the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*, R.S., c. E-3, could not have been made use of to a greater extent to maintain existing boundaries elsewhere in the province and thereby respect communities of interest and the particular problems of representation of rural ridings.

Based upon the communities of interest criterion, in light of the importance of effective representation, and in light of the allowed 25% variance from the electoral quota, the Sub-Committee recommends that the Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca, Delta, and Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt ridings should remain unaltered from their present configurations.

With respect to the proposed riding of Delta—South Richmond, the Sub-Committee recommends that, if changes are unavoidable, the community of North Delta be left in the riding despite the addition from South Richmond.

The Sub-Committee did not expressly consider the boundaries of the newly-defined riding of Burnaby North, but recommends that the new riding be renamed “Burnaby—Douglas.”

III. MANITOBA

The Sub-Committee met to hear the objections and comments of Members of the House of Commons with respect to the 1994 *Report of the Federal Boundaries Commission for the Province of Manitoba*, as tabled in the House of Commons on June 22, 1995.

The Boundaries Commission stated that the provincial electoral quota is 77,996 persons per constituency.

The Boundaries Commission proposed an addition to the Dauphin—Swan River riding by extending the southward boundary. The resulting riding would have a population of 76,568.

The Boundaries Commission proposed the reallocation of a portion of the existing St. Boniface riding to Winnipeg South. The resulting riding would have a population of 79,538, and would be renamed “Saint Boniface”.

The Boundaries Commission proposed an addition to the Churchill riding, with a resulting population of 73,486, and the division of the existing Portage—Interlake riding into two

new ridings, namely Portage—Lisgar, resulting population 79,417, and Selkirk—Interlake, resulting population 77,972.

The Boundaries Commission proposed the exclusion of a northwestern portion of the existing Provencher riding, and addition of an area along the western edge of the riding. The resulting population of the new Provencher riding is 79,968.

OBJECTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

1. Mrs. Marlene Cowling, M.P.

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mr. Bonin (acting chairperson), Mr. White, and Mr. Solomon, received the submissions of Mrs. Marlene Cowling, M.P. for the present riding of Dauphin—Swan River.

In her objections, Mrs. Cowling noted that the proposed southward extension of the boundary included moving the communities of Neepawa and Minnedosa from their existing riding of Lisgar—Marquette. Mrs. Cowling objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: it fails to consider historical patterns of trade, government operations and electoral tradition for the communities of Neepawa and Minnedosa; it fails to ensure a manageable size for the Dauphin—Swan River riding; and it fails to reflect that there had been only a relatively small population change in Dauphin—Swan River.

Mrs. Cowling emphasized the importance of manageable geographical size. She noted that the overall focus of the changes in Manitoba seems to have been equalization of riding populations, at the expense of the peculiar needs of individual communities. The Boundaries Commission Report had not explained why it had departed from the communities of interest and manageable size criteria.

Mrs. Cowling noted that nearly all of the time of an M.P. for a riding like Dauphin—Swan River is taken up by travel to and from Ottawa, and between communities in the riding. Without taking into account the proposed addition to the riding, it takes ten hours to travel the distance from the south-east to the north-west of the Dauphin—Swan River riding, and many of its communities are serviced only by gravel roads. Travel across the area is compromised by the Riding Mountain National Park, Lake Dauphin, and the Duck and Porcupine Mountains.

The rural, municipal, and town councils, band councils and Métis community councils of this riding all have expressed opposition to the proposed changes, and are concerned that any addition to the riding would compromise their representation. Moreover, the communities added to Dauphin—Swan River are removed from the rest of the riding, and in any event, Minnedosa and Neepawa traditionally look southward to Brandon or Winnipeg.

Mrs. Cowling argued that the proposed riding of Dauphin—Swan River varies less than 2% from the electoral quotient. The constituents would be better served if the Boundaries Commission had effected the full 25% variance allowed by the Law. The riding would be best served by leaving the boundaries as is.

Mrs. Cowling also commented on the elimination of the rural Lisgar—Marquette riding by the Boundaries Commission. Removing a riding frustrates the principle that elected officials must be fully representative and accountable, and it undermines the existence of a stable core riding area. It is essential that rural Canadian voters do not lose a seat in Parliament.

2. *Mr. Ronald Duhamel, M.P.*

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. White, Mr. Bonin, and Mr. Solomon, received the submissions of Mr. Ronald Duhamel, M.P. for the present riding of St. Boniface.

Mr. Duhamel objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: it fails to take into account the historical, cultural, and socio-demographic linkages between the community of Riel, and the communities of St. Boniface and Vital; it divides the community of Riel; and it removes the birthplace of Louis Riel from the riding, and separates that landmark from other related historic landmarks remaining in the Saint Boniface riding.

Mr. Duhamel emphasized that the initial proposals made by the Boundaries Commission had not included the separation of a part of Riel from the St. Boniface riding. The landmarks in the severed portion, and particularly Louis Riel House and Foyer Ballad, are of great importance to the Franco-Manitoban community in the riding. Mr. Duhamel has received representations from the Société franco-manitobaine which stress that the historical and symbolic importance for Franco-Manitobans of Louis Riel must not be underestimated. Louis Riel is integral to the St. Boniface “patrimoine.”

Mr. Duhamel noted that, although the changes reduced the total population in the riding, the riding has had little potential for growth. There were other ridings in the area with greater growth potential. The area of Riel in issue has only 5,000-6,000 persons.

Mr. Duhamel indicated that the M.P. whose riding would be affected if all of Riel were returned to the Saint Boniface riding did not oppose such a change.

Mr. Duhamel stressed the importance to the French-speaking and Métis population in St. Boniface that the community of Riel remain undivided, and that in this case, community of interest should prevail over mere matters of meeting electoral quotas.

3. *The Honourable Dr. Jon Gerrard, P.C., M.P.*

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. White, Mr. Bonin, and Mr. Solomon, received the submissions of the Hon. Dr. Jon Gerrard, P.C., M.P. for the present riding of Portage—Interlake.

Dr. Gerrard objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: they fail to take into consideration the 25% variance allowed by the Law for rural ridings; the division of Portage—Interlake into Portage—Lisgar and Selkirk—Interlake would deprive half of the constituents in the existing Portage—Interlake riding of their right to ensure that their elected M.P. was accountable at the next election; and the division of Portage—Interlake would have the effect of splitting up the community of interest of the French-speaking and Métis population in the Interlake.

Dr. Gerrard emphasized that the 25% variance allowed for rural ridings should have been taken into account in respect of the existing Churchill riding, and no more territory added.

Dr. Gerrard noted that any changes in population in the affected ridings were no different from changes taking place elsewhere in the province; consequently, the population criterion had not provided any reason for changing the ridings.

It was argued that the proposed changes would have a substantial impact upon the effectiveness of democracy within the ridings, because changing the riding boundaries frustrated the accountability relationship between elector and representative. The present Portage—Interlake riding will be split in two according to the Commission proposals; in the minds of the constituents, this has raised concerns about which part of the riding the present M.P. will be accountable to at the next election, and, in the interim, whether the M.P. will be tempted to favour one part of the existing constituency over the other.

Dr. Gerrard emphasized that the boundaries of the Portage—Interlake riding have been changed several times in the recent past. The effect of such changes is that there has not been a stable

core riding, and without such a core, consistent representation becomes impossible. These changes separate people with common interests.

4. *Mr. David W. Iftody, M.P.*

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. Solomon, Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Collins, and Mr. White, received submissions from Mr. David W. Iftody, M.P. for the existing riding of Provencher.

Mr. Iftody objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: the allocation of Pine Falls, Powerview, St. George, Fort Alexander, Bird River and Great Falls to the northern Churchill riding overlooks that these communities are more closely related to Provencher; and the constituency office of the M.P. for Churchill (Thompson) is located several hours by plane from these communities.

Mr. Iftody advised the Sub-Committee that many of his northern constituents have made representations opposing the proposed changes. He argued that the Boundaries Commission may have inadvertently applied mistaken perceptions about the nature of rural Manitoba ridings. The changes fail to respect the historic role of the pathways and waterways in the development of the area; these are natural boundaries, reflected in the patterns of settlement of the native peoples in the province. The present riding coincides with community relationships, clubs, school divisions, and families. The present northern boundary is at the point at which roadways into the north essentially end.

Mr. Iftody emphasized that the northern part of the riding should not be removed into the Churchill riding; however, the addition of polls from around Winnipeg would be an acceptable change to the riding.

Mr. Iftody voiced a general concern that any boundary changes not undermine the political voice of rural Manitoba voters.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

The Sub-Committee believes that the proposed boundary changes for the province of Manitoba fail to reflect adequate consideration of the statutory criteria which deal with the "human

side" of ridings, namely effective representation. In particular, the Sub-Committee is concerned that the criterion of population equalization has prevailed over the criterion of geographic manageability with respect to the extension of the boundaries of Dauphin—Swan River and Churchill, and over the community of interest criterion in the division of the existing St. Boniface, Portage—Interlake and Provencher ridings.

The Sub-Committee believes that, if the existing ridings fall within the allowed variance of 25% from the relevant electoral quota, then those riding boundaries should be left as is, at least until the next boundaries review.

Consequently, the Sub-Committee recommends that the Dauphin—Swan River riding not be extended further south as proposed. Where geographic manageability is considered, and particularly in the case of this riding, geographic impediments to direct travel must be considered in addition to the sheer size of the area encompassed.

The Sub-Committee recommends that the present riding of Portage—Interlake not be split as proposed, and in particular, that the community of interest of the Métis and French-speaking population which straddles the border between the proposed ridings of Selkirk—Interlake and Portage—Lisgar not be severed as is the consequence of the Boundaries Commission proposal.

The Sub-Committee believes that the interests of the electors in the communities of Pine Falls, St. George, Fort Alexander, Bird River and Great Falls will best be served by leaving that area within the Provencher riding.

The Sub-Committee recommends that the present northern boundary between the Provencher and Churchill ridings be left as is, even if it remains necessary to add polls from the more urban area adjacent to the City of Winnipeg (presently part of the Selkirk—Red River riding).

The Sub-Committee recommends that, of the area which has been removed from the existing St. Boniface riding to the proposed Winnipeg South riding, the portions which properly belong to the historic community of Riel should be reunited with the Saint Boniface riding.

IV. SASKATCHEWAN

The Sub-Committee met to consider the objections and comments of Members of the House of Commons with respect to the 1994 *Report of the Federal Boundaries Commission for the Province of Saskatchewan*, as tabled in the House of Commons on June 22, 1995.

The Boundaries Commission stated that the provincial electoral quota is 70,638 persons per constituency.

The Boundaries Commission proposed one additional riding for the city of Saskatoon, and adjustment of the boundaries of the three existing Saskatoon ridings to encompass larger portions of the surrounding rural areas. Much of the riding of Saskatoon—Dundurn will be subsumed into the new riding of Blackstrap, with the resulting population of 71,060. The remainder will be subsumed into Saskatoon—Rosetown, with a resulting population of 70,753.

The Boundaries Commission proposed the addition of an area to the western and northern boundaries of Souris—Moose Mountain, with a resulting population of 72,240.

The Boundaries Commission proposed replacement of the three existing Regina ridings with four mixed urban-rural ridings. The resulting riding populations are: Palliser, 70,396; Qu'Appelle, 71,145; Regina—Arm River, 67,594; and Wascana, 70,320.

The Boundaries Commission proposed replacement of the three existing Saskatoon ridings with four mixed urban-rural ridings. The Saskatoon—Humboldt riding is extended further eastward. The resulting population of the new Saskatoon—Humboldt riding is 69,377.

OBJECTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

1. Mr. Morris Bodnar, M.P.

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. White, and Mr. McKinnon, received the submissions of Mr. Morris Bodnar, M.P. for the present riding of Saskatoon—Dundurn.

Mr. Bodnar objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: they overlook the community of interest between the City of Saskatoon and the Towns of Dundurn, Clavet and Allan; they confound urban and rural interests by including Outlook, Kenaston and Watrous with the City of Saskatoon; and since there was little population change in the Saskatchewan ridings, there was no need for boundary changes.

Mr. Bodnar commented that the current riding of Saskatoon—Dundurn extends beyond the city limits of Saskatoon to include the Towns of Allan, Clavet, and Dundurn, all of which are

trading communities linked to the southern portion of Saskatoon. However, the changes proposed would link the urban areas of Saskatoon to much larger rural portions of the province. Urban and rural interests often are dissimilar.

Mr. Bodnar voiced his concern that the changes proposed will eliminate a wholly rural riding. He observed that where mixed urban-rural ridings are substituted for predominantly rural ridings, inevitably it is the urban portion and its concentrated population which controls the outcome of elections. Although an M.P. could represent both sets of interests, inevitably one or the other would be compromised.

Mr. Bodnar observed that the population in Saskatchewan is not changing significantly, and that redundant changes to the electoral boundaries simply cost time and money. The total number of ridings in the province is unchanged.

Mr. Bodnar noted that the most northern riding, Churchill River, will encompass more than half of the total territory of Saskatchewan, and argued that it was inappropriate to have a single riding of such large dimensions.

Finally, in the event that the Commission goes forward with the proposed new Blackstrap riding, Mr. Bodnar proposed that the name for the proposed Blackstrap riding should be "Saskatoon—Blackstrap", in order to make the riding more readily identifiable, particularly on a national level.

2. *Mr. Bernie Collins, M.P.*

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. Bonin, Mr. McKinnon, and Mr. Solomon, received submissions from Mr. Bernie Collins, M.P. for Souris—Moose Mountain.

Mr. Collins objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: they fail to respect communities of interest amongst smaller towns and villages; they fail to consider that there had been only small changes in population numbers and distribution in the province; they fail to recognize that the proposed increase in size of Souris—Moose Mountain makes constituent access to the services of the M.P. even more difficult; and they fail to consider that Souris—Moose Mountain is relatively-well populated for its size.

Mr. Collins emphasized that rural communities of interest had been overlooked in the Boundaries Commission treatment of Saskatchewan ridings. Mr. Collins submitted that there had

been a fundamental error, in that it appeared that the electoral quota had been the sole criterion in setting riding boundaries. Mr. Collins stressed that the M.P. of any given riding is the best expert on the issue of the size of riding which can be effectively served and represented and that the focus must be on geographic manageability. Increasing the size of Souris—Moose Mountain will make the M.P.'s access to the communities, and the constituent's access to the M.P., even more difficult.

3. The Honourable Ralph E. Goodale, P.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. Solomon, Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Collins, and Mr. White, received the submissions of the Hon. Ralph E. Goodale, P.C., Minister of Agriculture, and M.P. for the existing riding of Regina—Wascana.

The Minister objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: it is inappropriate to eliminate two viable rural ridings in a province which is largely rural; the new Palliser riding is inappropriate because it appends the rural residents of the existing Moose Jaw riding to urban Regina; the electoral quota formulas have been applied mechanically, and have resulted in illogical ridings; and the changes frustrate stability and consistency, and appear to be change for the sake of change.

The Minister advised the Sub-Committee that the province's static population makes change unnecessary and that the commonly-held opinion in Saskatchewan is that there were no good and compelling reasons for the changes proposed.

The Minister stated that the fragmentation of Regina into four mixed constituencies is unfair, because mixed ridings do not give an adequate voice to rural voters. The changes make no sense: two largely rural ridings have been eliminated, and other remaining rural ridings enlarged unrealistically.

The Minister argued that the proposed riding of Palliser exhibits most of the flaws characteristic of the proposals: the urban Regina voters have been diluted by the addition of a large rural area; the City of Moose Jaw has been lumped in with Regina; and the rural voters appended to the riding effectively have been disenfranchised. The rural area to the southwest of Regina does not feel a community of interest with urban Regina.

The Minister told the Sub-Committee that the Saskatchewan electoral map should have been left as it was. In particular, a rural riding should be maintained west and south of Regina, which would include the City of Moose Jaw. This solution would also solve the problems of the

Souris—Moose Mountain and Cypress Hills—Grasslands ridings which have been expanded significantly by the proposals.

4. *Mrs. Georgette Sheridan, M.P.*

The Sub-Committee, comprising Mrs. Cowling (chairperson), Mr. Solomon, Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Collins, and Mr. White, received submissions from Mrs. Georgette Sheridan, M.P. for the existing riding of Saskatoon—Humboldt.

Mrs. Sheridan objected to the proposed changes on the grounds that: there is little community of interest between Saskatoon and the newly-added eastern portion of Saskatoon—Humboldt; there is little community of interest between the existing rural portion of Saskatoon—Humboldt and the added eastern portion; and any changes in the distribution of Saskatchewan electors were insufficient to justify changes to that province's ridings.

Mrs. Sheridan advised the Sub-Committee that the shared opinion in Saskatchewan is that redistribution of the electoral boundaries was wholly unnecessary in that province. There was no compelling reason for the changes, and the redrawing appears completely arbitrary. There have been no population shifts in the province; this appears to be an instance of change for change's sake.

Mrs. Sheridan explained that the current mixing of urban Saskatoon with the rural area immediately encircling it is logical because these rural residents are likely to look to Saskatoon for business and commercial reasons. However, persons in the more remote rural areas would have little reason to travel to Saskatoon. There is already a common feeling in rural Saskatchewan that rural voters are not fairly represented.

Mrs. Sheridan noted that the present Saskatoon—Humboldt riding already has a larger-than-average rural area included in it; the proposed changes, increasing the rural area in the riding, merely exacerbates the problems of substantially mixed ridings. Even now, the rural residents of Saskatoon—Humboldt press their M.P. to establish rural constituency offices; if the Boundary Commission's proposals are implemented, there will be even more need for additional rural offices, and the new constituents can expect even less personal service from their urban-based M.P.

Mrs. Sheridan stressed that she is absolutely opposed to the changes proposed for Saskatchewan.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

With respect to the adjustment of riding boundaries in the province of Saskatchewan, the Sub-Committee is particularly concerned by the most striking feature of the Boundaries

Commission Report, namely, the increased use of substantially mixed urban-rural ridings. While there is a logic in including the rural “trading area” immediately adjoining the principal urban areas of Regina and Saskatoon in the related urban riding, the Sub-Committee finds the proposed extensions of the Saskatoon and Regina ridings, the creation of two additional mixed urban-rural ridings, and the deletion of two rural ridings unjustified, inexplicable and inappropriate.

The Sub-Committee finds that any alteration to the Saskatchewan boundaries is without cause in a province with largely static population numbers and distribution. The redistribution of federal electoral boundaries in that province is best described as a waste of taxpayer money. The Sub-Committee recommends that the Saskatchewan electoral boundaries remain as currently drawn.

In the event that the Boundaries Commission finds that the status quo cannot be maintained for the Saskatchewan boundaries, the Sub-Committee recommends strongly that the Boundaries Commission adopt a more incremental approach, using the existing boundaries as the starting point for minor alterations, and paying particular attention to minimizing the negative effects of such changes on nearby communities of interest.

In the event that the boundaries for the proposed Blackstrap riding are maintained, the Sub-Committee proposes the riding name of “Saskatoon—Blackstrap”.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE’S CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

The Sub-Committee benefited from the detailed submissions made to it by the 13 Members who presented their objections to the proposed boundary changes. However, the Sub-Committee faced considerable difficulty in making recommendations with respect to individual ridings where it was clear that any such recommendation also would have a significant impact upon some or all of the other ridings in the province. In general, the Sub-Committee’s task would have been facilitated had the Boundaries Commissions’ Reports set out the reasons for change in greater detail for each riding undergoing significant alteration. Maps setting out more clearly the existing and proposed boundaries would have assisted a fuller appreciation of the nature and extent of the proposed changes.

Particularly in the absence of detailed reasoning accompanying the proposals for change, the Sub-Committee gained the impression that matters of effective and consistent representation, and meaningful accountability of elected representatives had not entered into the calculation of the new boundaries. A common theme heard by the Sub-Committee was the Boundaries Commissions’ apparent failure to consider the individual ridings’ communities of interest. Significantly, certain

MPs argued that it would be better to add an urban area to his or her riding, in addition to conserving existing communities of interest, than to minimize overall population numbers by severing a community of interest.

The Sub-Committee also notes that the consultation process may have been undermined in certain instances where significant changes appeared in the final Reports which were not indicated to the public in the initial published Proposals.

In respect of many of the proposed changes, and particularly in the absence of detailed explanations of the motivating reasons for change, the Sub-Committee gained the impression that the electoral quota was the sole criterion instigating the proposed changes. This is particularly troubling to the Sub-Committee in light of the evidence before it that in some western provinces there had been minimal population change or shift, certainly within the allowable 25% variance, and therefore little reason for change.

It appears to the Sub-Committee that, in general, the Boundaries Commissions failed to avail themselves of the 25% variance from provincial electoral quotas which is allowed by the governing statute. The Sub-Committee wishes to emphasize the importance of making use of the 25% variance to account for the substantially different problems faced by the constituents of rural ridings, as opposed to urban ridings, in ensuring that their voices and concerns are heard by the federal government. In that same vein, the Sub-Committee is troubled by the Members' submissions that the newly re-mixed urban-rural ridings will serve to further mute the expression of rural concerns and rural communities of interest.

The Sub-Committee is of the opinion that the statutory criteria of "community of interest", "community of identity", and "manageable geographic size" point towards a crucial consideration in the setting of electoral boundaries, namely, whether the constituents are being or will be adequately served by the boundaries established.

The Sub-Committee requests that the Boundaries Commissions for the Western Provinces seriously consider the objections which have been made to the Sub-Committee, and that the electoral boundaries finally established reflect the concerns and recommendations voiced by the Sub-Committee in this Report.

WITNESSES

Monday, October 2, 1995 (Meeting No. 2)

House of Commons:

Bernie Collins, M.P., Souris—Moose Mountain;

Marlene Cowling, M.P., Dauphin—Swan River;

Ronald Duhamel, M.P., St. Boniface;

The Honourable Jon Gerrard, M.P., P.C.,
Portage—Interlake;

The Honourable Anne McLellan, M.P., P.C.,
Edmonton Northwest.

Tuesday, October 3, 1995 (Meetings Nos. 3 and 4)

Morris Bodnar, M.P., Saskatoon—Dundurn;

John Cummins, M.P., Delta;

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, M.P., P.C.,
Regina—Wascana;

Jim Hart, M.P., Okanagan—Similkameen—
Merritt;

David Iftody, M.P., Provencher.

Keith Martin, M.P., Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca;

Georgette Sheridan, M.P., Saskatoon—
Humboldt;

John Solomon, M.P. for Svend Robinson, M.P.,
Burnaby—Kingsway.

TÉMOINS

Le lundi 2 octobre 1995 (Séance n° 2)

Chambre des communes:

Bernie Collins, député, Souris—Moose Mountain;

Marlene Cowling, députée, Dauphin—Swan River;

Ronald Duhamel, député, Saint-Boniface;

L'honorable Jon Gerrard, député, C.P., Portage—Interlake;

L'honorable Anne McLellan, député, C.P., Edmonton—Nord-Ouest.

Le mardi 3 octobre 1995 (Séances n°s 3 et 4)

Morris Bodnar, député, Saskatoon—Dundurn;

John Cummins, député, Delta;

L'honorable Ralph Goodale, député, C.P., Regina—Wascana;

Jim Hart, député, Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt;

David Iftody, député, Provencher;

Keith Martin, député, Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca;

Georgette Sheridan, députée, Saskatoon—Humboldt;

John Solomon, député, au nom de Svend Robinson, député, Burnaby—Kingsway.

MAIL  **POSTE**

Canada Post Corporation Société canadienne des postes

Postage paid

Port payé

Lettermail

Poste – lettre

**8801320
Ottawa**

If undelivered, return COVER ONLY to:

Canada Communication Group — Publishing
45 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard,
Hull, Québec, Canada, K1A 0S9

En cas de non-livraison,

retourner cette COUVERTURE SEULEMENT à:
Groupe Communication Canada — Édition
45 boulevard Sacré-Coeur,
Hull, Québec, Canada, K1A 0S9

The Speaker of the House hereby grants permission to reproduce this document, in whole or in part, for use in schools and for other purposes such as private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary. Any commercial or other use or reproduction of this publication requires the express prior written authorization of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

If this document contains excerpts or the full text of briefs presented to the Committee, permission to reproduce these briefs in whole or in part, must be obtained from their authors.

Available from Canada Communication Group — Publishing,
Public Works and Government Services Canada,
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9

Le Président de la Chambre des communes accorde, par la présente, l'autorisation de reproduire la totalité ou une partie de ce document à des fins éducatives et à des fins d'étude privée, de recherche, de critique, de compte rendu ou en vue d'en préparer un résumé de journal. Toute reproduction de ce document à des fins commerciales ou autres nécessite l'obtention au préalable d'une autorisation écrite du Président.

Si ce document renferme des extraits ou le texte intégral de mémoires présentés au Comité, on doit également obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de reproduire la totalité ou une partie de ces mémoires.

En vente: Groupe Communication Canada — Édition,
Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada,
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9

